NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Pursuant to its authority under M.G.L. c. 69, § 1B, and e. 71, § 38G-1/2, as amended by Chapter 226 of the Acts of 2014, and in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, M.G.L. c.30A, § 3, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) is soliciting public comment on proposed amendments to 603 CMR 7.00, Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval.

Chapter 226 of the Acts of 2014, An Act Relative to Assisting Individuals with Autism and Other Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities, directs the Board to establish a teacher license endorsement in autism in order to meet the unique and complex educational needs of students on the Autism Spectrum. The proposed amendments will establish standards for the Autism Specialist Endorsement for Massachusetts licensed special education teachers.

Copies of the proposed amendments are available on the Department’s web site at http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/ or by calling 781-338-3375. Written comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted by mail to: Sarah Whitman, SEPP, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148; by fax to 781-338-3371; or by e-mail to: swhitman@doe.mass.edu. The deadline for submission of public comment is Friday, June 5, 2015. The Board is expected to vote on the proposed amendments at its regular monthly meeting scheduled for June 23, 2015.
Small Business Impact Statement Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §2

This statement accompanies the filing by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education ("Department") of proposed amendments to 603 CMR 7.00, Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval Regulations.

The proposed amendments are intended to comply with Chapter 226 of the Acts of 2014, An Act Relative to Assisting Individuals with Autism and Other Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities, which directs the Board to establish a teacher license endorsement in autism in order to meet the unique and complex educational needs of students on the Autism Spectrum. The proposed amendments will establish standards for the Autism Specialist Endorsement for Massachusetts licensed special education teachers.

1. The amendments do not affect small businesses.
2. Since the amendments do not affect small businesses, the following considerations are not applicable:
   a. Reporting, record keeping or other administrative costs required of small businesses for compliance associated with these amendments.
   b. Appropriateness of performance standards vs. design standards.
   c. Regulations of this agency or any other state agency, which may duplicate or conflict with the proposed amendments.
   d. Analysis of whether the proposed amendments are likely to deter or encourage the formation of new business in the state.

Submitted by:

Rhoda E. Schneider, on behalf of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Date: 4/29/15